

INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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COUNTRY	USSR	REPORT		25X1
SUBJECT	Miscellaneous Comments	DATE DISTR.	30 December 1955	
	on Political and	NO. OF PAGES	2	25X1
	Economic Conditions in the Soviet	REQUIREMENT NO.	RD	
	Union and in the West	REFERENCES		25X1
DATE OF INFO.				
PLACE ACQUIRED				25X1
DATE ACQUIRED		This is UNEVALUATED Information		25X1

SOURCE EVALUATIONS ARE DEFINITIVE. APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.

2. A Soviet [redacted] touched on several subjects, including Marxist theory. During a discussion on the results of the July 1955 Geneva conference, he asked why Germany should be reunited. He continued that the Soviets had proved their willingness to reach agreement on various questions and wondered why the West insisted on German reunification. He said that the Soviet Union fears Germany. He was certain that there already was an army in West Germany, but doubted that there was one in East Germany. He had a negative attitude towards the emigration and called the latter-day emigres from the USSR, such as Petrov, "criminal elements". He stated that he loved and admired "the Russia of Peter the Great, of Catherine, of Suvorov, and of Zhukov".

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STATE	X	ARMY	X	NAVY	X	AIR	X	FBI		AEC				
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(Note: Washington distribution indicated by "X"; Field distribution by "#".)

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- a. In reply to a question as to whether a general such as Vlasov would have any success today, he stated that it would be important that such a person have no connection with the West, as did Vlasov, and that he need not necessarily be a general. However, if he were well known among the Soviet people as a positive man and if he were prepared to state quite clearly what would happen after the change, the Soviet people would follow him.
 - b. He still believes in Communism, or rather Socialism, as an ideal. He said that he thought it possible to put Marx's ideas into practice, but not by the means being used now. However, he felt that, without a belief in the positive aspects of Socialism, it would be horrible to consider the fact that so many persons, during the Revolution and before, had shed their blood for nothing.
 - c. He stated that Stalin was a dictator, with authority that no one has today. He continued that Stalin had misused his power by preventing other capable persons with new ideas from rising to the top. He felt that the idea of government by committee was not a bad one, that a country such as the Soviet Union could not be ruled by one man, and that government by a group of specialists was the best solution. He believed that, if there were another dictatorship, it would mean that the members of the present government had failed in their purpose.
 - d. He said that the fall of Beriya was nothing but a struggle for power and that it was not a bad thing that Beriya, who would have been a dictator like Stalin, had lost. He went on to comment that Beriya was a Georgian and that "Russia should be ruled by Russians".
 - e. He further remarked that there was not a classless society in the Soviet Union and that he would like to slap those officials who ignored the rest of humanity. He thought, however, that financial arrangements were better in the Soviet Union than in the West. "We put our money in the savings banks and the State profits from it."
 - f. He noted that Communism made better progress in the countries that were more backward materially and culturally. He thought that if the West were spiritually strong, it would produce a faith to counter Communism, but he had not heard of one.
 - g. He doubted that a revolution would be possible in the Soviet Union.
5. A group of scientists expressed pleasure at the opportunity of talking with a Westerner, but criticized a number of things such as the color bar, colonial policy, and the artificiality of certain tendencies in art. 25X1
 6. A Soviet technician [redacted] discussed the Soviet people's fear of the regime. He remarked that not all of the population is equally afraid and that the degree of fear depends on one's position in the social structure. He continued that the workers are much more free in expressing their opinions and have far fewer inhibitions than other groups. He said that the farmers are more careful and subtle in their criticism in that they do not find fault with the system or the general order of things but with individuals or particular events. He concluded that the intellectuals feel the most fear, not because they are less courageous but because they are more sensitive, think more about things, and have far less community spirit than other groups. 25X1

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